

The purpose of the Treatment Sales Tax (TST) Advisory Committee is to make non-binding recommendations to the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on the use of treatment sales tax funds each year during the budget process. Recommendations are based on the county-wide strategic plans and performance reviews of existing programs. The advisory committee shall be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act, chapter 42.30 RCW.

Terms of Office

Appointments are for two or three-year terms; members may be reappointed.

Members

A maximum of nine advisory committee members.

Meetings

The Treatment Sales Tax Advisory Committee meets monthly; for a complete list of meeting dates please see our website at www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/Pages/tst. Meetings are held at the Public Health & Social Services building at 412 Lilly Road NE, Olympia, WA 98506 or virtually via Zoom.

Staff Contact

Carrie Hennen, Program Manager, Public Health & Social Services
(360) 742-9707, carrie.hennen@co.thurston.wa.us

Qualifications of Board Members

The committee is comprised of residents of Thurston County with an interest in services and programs for Thurston County residents with mental health or substance abuse issues. Members will have no commitment, investment, obligation, or involvement (financial or otherwise), in any agency contracting with, submitting any proposals to, or is expected to submit any proposals to the Treatment Sales Tax Fund. A former committee member may submit proposals to the Treatment Sales Tax fund only following a minimum of one full calendar year after the date of their official departure from the committee.

Who Appoints

Board of County Commissioners.

Vacancies filled by

Upon a vacancy on the advisory committee, a successor shall be selected and appointed by the BoCC to fill the unexpired term.

Removal is by

Advisory committee members serve at the pleasure of the BoCC and may be removed by majority vote of the BoCC. If a member of the advisory committee misses two consecutive advisory committee meetings without adequate excuse, the advisory committee may request removal of that member by the BoCC.

Authority

Thurston County Code Chapter 5.49 Mental Health, Chemical Dependency and Therapeutic Courts Sales and Use Tax.

Compensation

None.

Current Members

- 1. Priscilla Terry**
Date Appointed: March 2020
Date Term Expires: March 2023
- 2. Wendy Tanner**
Date Appointed: March 2019, reappointed May 2022
Date Term Expires: December 2023
- 3. Robert Almada**
Date Appointed: March 2021
Date Term Expires: December 2023
- 4. Gina Thompson**
Date Appointed: April 2019, reappointed May 2022
Date Term Expires: December 2024
- 5. Bob Jones**
Date Appointed: April 2019, reappointed May 2022
Date Term Expires: December 2024
- 6. Tonia McClanahan**
Date Appointed: May 2022
Date Term Expires: December 2024
- 7. Sarah DeStasio**
Date Appointed: May 2022
Date Term Expires: December 2024

Member Biographies

Robert Almada

Robert Almada is a law enforcement professional with over 30 years of experience. He began his law enforcement career with the Santa Monica Police Department in 1990, retiring in 2019 as a Police Captain to accept a position as Deputy Chief of Police for the Lacey Police Department. Robert was appointed as the Interim Chief of Police for the Lacey Police Department in May 2020 and confirmed as Chief of Police in June 2021. Robert's career has given him unique insights into the suffering and successes of persons experiencing intolerance, substance addiction, mental illness, and homelessness.

Robert actively participates on a variety of boards and commissions including serving on the policy board for the Thurston County Regional Action Site for the Advancing Pretrial Policy and Research Initiative (APPR) and the APPR Research-Action Site Racial Equity Roundtable (RRR). He has been involved with several homeless and social justice initiatives to promote healing, equity, and community safety. Robert is a life time learner and has received a Masters of Public Administration, a bachelor's degree in business finance, a post graduate certificate in leadership from the Drucker Institute at Claremont Graduate University, and was a member of the inaugural class of the California Police Chief's Executive Leadership Institute.

Sarah DeStasio

Sarah is a person with disabilities who co-founded Capital Homecare Cooperative, a worker-owned caregiving agency, after serving her community as a caregiver for many years. She is currently completing a Masters in Counseling.

Sarah also has a Masters in Public Administration from the Evergreen State College where she focused on human services policy. Sarah completed a placement with Frontiers of Innovation, a multi-agency project focused on how the State of Washington can improve outcomes for children and families.

Sarah is a Democratic Socialist involved in a variety of political/community orgs including the Thurston County Democrats and the South Salish Progressive Alliance. She encourages everyone to educate, agitate and organize around access to behavioral health and substance abuse treatment.

Bob Jones

Bob Jones is Founding President of Thurston County Veterans Services (TCVS), a nonprofit organization supporting Veterans. Bob retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army, after 22 years of service. He also owns a Defense Contracting new business development consulting firm, responsible for securing several multi-million-dollar Defense Contracts for small manufacturers nation-wide.

Bob has served as President, Chair, Vice President, Vice Chair or Board Member of 12 Nonprofit Business, Social Services, University Alumni or Veterans Organizations over many years. He holds Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees from Indiana University.

Tonia McClanahan

Tonia McClanahan is a contracted Social Service Worker with the Washington State Office of Public Defense Parent Representation Programs and formerly the Parent4Parent Program Director for Thurston, Mason and Lewis Counties. She has been working collaboratively with attorneys, parents, and stakeholders to help parents navigate the Children's Justice Systems and come to a resolution in the Dependency Court process.

Tonia also sits on various committees and boards at local and state levels. She has been mentoring parents in the Dependency process since 2005 and has testified to help support Legislative work to improve child welfare systems since 2006. In 2013 she became the first Birth Parent to sit on the Washington State Supreme Court Commission on Children in Foster Care. Tonia also is a member of Family Recovery Drug Court teams in two counties, State SafeBabies Design Team, a local Executive Dependency Advisory Group, Strophy Foundation, State Background Check Workgroup, and Statewide Reunification Steering Committee. She champions the Protein for All program and Hangry Carts as well as the local Mockingbird Society Chapter.

Tonia believes in helping parents regain hope in rebuilding their families.

Wendy Tanner

Wendy Tanner, MSW has spent her career working in human services, including 16 years at Community Youth Services (CYS) where she worked as the Chief Financial Officer/ Chief Operations Officer and 5 years at Valley Cities Behavioral Health as a Clinical Services Director. She retired in 2022 from the Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence, a partnership between the Washington Department of Children & Family Services and the University of Washington School of Social Work, where she served as Associate Director of Finance and Operations. Her experience includes developing, supervising, and delivering programs to at-risk and underserved populations. She has experience in housing, mental health and substance use treatment, harm reduction, crisis services, supportive employment, juvenile diversion, suicide prevention, trauma informed care and services to homeless youth and young adults, including shelter and drop in center.

Wendy lives in Olympia with her husband and is a member of Junior League of Olympia and the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

Priscilla Terry

Priscilla Terry has recently retired from a 40+ year career in the commercial real estate business. During this time, she has worked with local jurisdictions on matters involving land use, zoning and other issues.

Since 1997 she has been involved in hospital and community health care as a Providence St Peter Hospital board trustee and chair of Quality and Safety. Priscilla was a founding director of South Sound Bank, a community resource for small business. She served on the editorial board and writes a column for The Olympian newspaper.

In retirement, Priscilla sees a way to bring different perspectives to issues confronting the legal system as it tries new approaches to help vulnerable and mentally ill populations increase their quality of life and begin a more rewarding and fulfilling existence. She sees this as one of the few subjects that unites people and policy makers. She wants to be part of the search for solutions that make a difference.

Gina Thompson

Gina Thompson uses she/her pronouns. Gina identifies as a light skinned, mixed race, queer lesbian with 20 years of professional experience serving folks in marginalized communities. Gina is currently a Program Manager with the Department of Commerce. Her journey in the public sector began at Maple Lane Competency Restoration Program with the Office of Forensic Mental Health Services. Gina also volunteers as a community organizer for the Capital City Pride parade, and assists with New Horizons, a camp for young adults with developmental and/or physical disabilities.